

Pond Dipping and Printmaking

A practical 2D activity for KS1-3

These resources are written to help support cross-curricular learning for KS1 – 3 through exploration of the wider Fyne Court landscape and how it has developed and changed over time. Human activity has shaped the grounds and surrounding habitats, bringing a wide range of species. Explore and investigate the diversity and interactions of the natural and man-made elements of this inspirational place and consider their relevance to the wider world.



Main Subject Focus: **Connection with habitats through Art and Design**

Additional Curriculum Links: English, History, Geography, Science, Environment, Physical Education, Well Being and Good Mental Health

Key Stage 1 and 2 National Curriculum

These resources have been compiled to enable high-quality independent thinking. Through the use of creativity, they encourage exploration and understanding, and open up ideas to change the world. Each Art & Design activity enables a pathway into mathematics, science, and design and technology, and provides insights into local and global natural world and environmental issues.

Fyne Court - Pond Habitat

Ponds are unique in concentrating so much life into such a small space and Fyne Court's pond is second to none. Through the ever-popular activity of pond dipping it is possible to learn about the complex web of life in and around this beautiful and tranquil watery environment. Close up observation of some of our most iconic aquatic species - toads, newts, dragonfly, damselfly, diving beetles and many more – reveals an astonishing range of adaptations and strategies for surviving in this dynamic and often challenging habitat.



The supporting video shows the children discovering lots of water boatmen. If a season dictates a particular find allow the find to lead the choice of learning.

These activities are written to facilitate meaningful outcomes through exploring Fyne Court. The pond habitat is just one area to encourage children to be out and about observing and responding to nature. Fyne Court provides many other habitats to explore. One of the children in the video found this little toad as we crossed the meadow to head back to the carpark!



Assembled Collage Activity

This activity is demonstrated in the supporting video. This assembled collage is an excellent activity to discuss shape, size, texture, colour and compositions with children. They will enjoy the collection of natural objects whilst out working and discussions about what to collect can take place before, during or after the walk.



To recreate the insects they have observed realistically is a challenge, but to use the natural observations, drawings or photographs as stimuli to ignite the imagination will help engage the children in producing considered outcomes. Assembled collages are a great starting point for lots of other art activities and add purpose to the task of making collections whilst out walking with a class.

Doodle Bugs

Simple, quick, black pen drawing encourages fun and freedom in observational drawing. Referring to Maria Merian's 17th Century illustrations and their scientific significance can lead children to create their own journals of scientific observations from their time at Fyne Court. Written descriptions and note taking can be added to the drawings as part of an environmental science topic.



Print Making

The poly-pressure printing technique is demonstrated on the accompanying video. This simple introduction to print making allows the linear observations from the pond to be developed further. This work can be achieved in small group work or developed by individual pupils. Varying levels of process can be applied to enable differentiation and the nature of repetition allows outcomes to be shared with school and home.

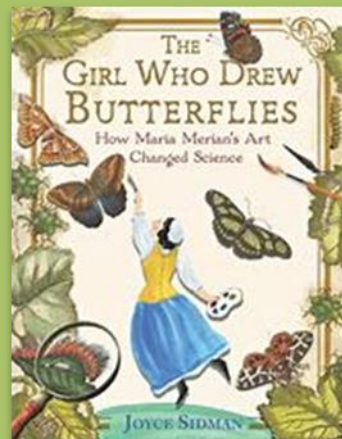
Images alongside written study and scientific observation will make a great classroom display to demonstrate the impact of exploring Fyne Court and the Quantock Hills.



Recommended artists and authors...

'The Girl Who Drew Butterflies How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science' by Joyce Sidman (2018).

Maria Merian (1647-1717) was a German naturalist and illustrator noted for her studies of insects. She collected insects and raised silkworms as a teen and published her first book when she was 28.



Excerpts and art from THE GIRL WHO DREW BUTTERFLIES: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science by Joyce Sidman.

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